

# Community Wish List

Winter 2026 - Updated 6/8



**JEWISH  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**  
OF GREATER HARTFORD



This newsletter highlights activities you can partially or fully fund to keep our community strong, vibrant and resilient. Thank you for your generous support!

## HUMAN SERVICES

### Sharks Swim Team

Mandell JCC

Approximately 90 youth and teen swimmers compete on the the Sharks Swim Team. The team would like to purchase Hy-Tek software, which is used throughout USA Swimming, to manage the athlete rosters, meet entries, events and results. This system is used to communicate accurate information to meet hosts and governing bodies.

**FULLY FUNDED**



### Socialization and Programming for Holocaust Survivors

Voices of Hope

Your grant will provide holiday-themed food and connection to Holocaust survivors in their homes, and create social gatherings and Shabbat dinners at Hartford-area senior living facilities. These personal visits are critically important, as many survivors experience loneliness and isolation, and are unable to attend community-wide events.

**FULLY FUNDED**

### Hot Kosher Meals for Low Income Holocaust Survivors

Jewish Family Services

Jewish Family Services' hot kosher meals program provides five meals a week for low income Holocaust survivors. By recommending a grant of \$3,750, you can sponsor a survivor who will receive five meals a week for a year.

**FULLY FUNDED**

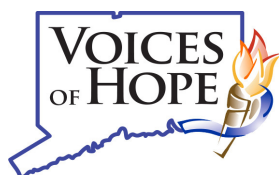
## OUTREACH

### HERO Summer Institute for Educators

Voices of Hope

Voices of Hope's Holocaust Education Resource and Outreach Center (HERO), a joint initiative between the Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies and Voices of Hope, will host a three-day Summer Institute for Connecticut educators. Your grant will cover the costs of keynote speakers' honoraria, teaching resources and materials, food, lodging, and stipends to ensure broad educator participation and learning.

**\$3,000**



## EDUCATION

### Beatrice Fox Auerbach Early Childhood Center (ECC)

Mandell Jewish Community Center

Your grant will help the ECC develop sensory tool kits that teach early learners how to stay calm, focused, and ready to engage, and foster peaceful learning environments. Each kit will include tools, visuals, and language educators can use when children feel overwhelmed, stored in accessible pouches for quick classroom use.



**FULLY FUNDED**

### Imagination in Action

Solomon Schechter Day School

Imagine this: small groups of Schechter students gathering outside, their laughter rising as they build massive structures together. Giant, durable blue foam blocks morph into bridges, castles, rocket ships — anything a child can dream. The blocks can also be used indoors for year-long creative fun. Help Schechter realize this vision for an Imagination Playground!

**\$3,000**

### We Don't Want to "Pass-Over" Robotics!

Solomon Schechter Day School

Your grant to Schechter's annual STEAMfest will allow students to design and build projects that bring Jewish holidays to life. Schechter wants to expand its LEGO Robotics program so its Passover STEAMfest incorporates robotic engineering and real-world problem-solving. Your support will create a lasting robotics program that makes Jewish learning unforgettable.

**\$3,000**

### Expanding Our STEM Program

New England Jewish Academy (NEJA)

Please consider a grant to help NEJA purchase parts for additional robots for its expanding middle school STEM program. Students are looking forward to more robotics competitions this year!

**\$3,000**

### Sound Equipment

New England Jewish Academy

NEJA students perform on a portable stage. To fully professionalize these performances, NEJA wants to invest in quality sound equipment, including floor mics for its choir. Your grant will pay for these expenses and support quality performances in our community.

**\$3,000**

### Challah with Hillel

UConn Hillel

Nothing brings students together like food! UConn Hillel would like to host a weekly challah bake. The activity helps students connect more deeply with this Jewish tradition and engages them in a creative way. Funding would support the purchase of baking supplies and UConn Hillel aprons for participants.

**FULLY FUNDED**



## SOCIAL ACTION

### Rekindle

Jewish Federation

Rekindle is an initiative that advances mutual understanding and durable relationships between members of the Black community and the Jewish community through structured dialogue, shared learning, and sustained engagement. The program strengthens social cohesion by equipping participants with the relationships and tools needed to collaborate across differences.

**FULLY FUNDED**

## SPECIAL POPULATIONS

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### **Purim in the Wild West**

Chabad Friendship Circle

You can support an inclusive holiday celebration for families with children with special needs, featuring circus activities and entertainment. Your grant will help connect children with disabilities and teenage volunteers in a supportive environment, and feel the JOY of Judaism!

**\$3,000**

### **Teen Training**

Chabad Friendship Circle

Your grant will train Jewish teens about understanding disabilities and fostering inclusion through a fun, interactive, escape room style experience. Teens will learn empathetic leadership skills and build meaningful connections with each other while learning how to create a more inclusive world.

**\$2,650**

### **Children's Mental Health Needs**

Jewish Family Services (JFS)

JFS is a nationally-accredited, licensed outpatient clinic, serving more than 150 children. The nonprofit provides psychiatric care, allowing children who need extra support to receive prescribed medications. Insurance coverage and copays do not fully cover the cost of this essential service, but your support will help make sure it is available.

**FULLY FUNDED**

### **Plant Therapy**

Jewish Association for Community Living (JCL)

Your grant will deliver the healing benefits of plant therapy to individuals being served by JCL. Through monthly sessions, about 10 participants engage in hands-on gardening that reduces stress, builds motor skills, and fosters a sense of purpose and connection.

**\$2,400**

## ARTS & CULTURE

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### **Getting History into the World**

Jewish Historical Society (JHS)

The JHS collection catalog is a vital database of the organization's holdings. Limited staff capacity makes it difficult to respond to all information requests, but putting the catalog on the nonprofit's website makes it more visible and available. Your grant will fund professional installation of software to keep this resource automatically updated and accessible to all online.

**\$3,000**

### **Set the Scene for History**

Jewish Historical Society

Imagine a quiet, comfortable space for filming the community's next generation oral history interviews and video creations. JHS needs funding for a backdrop, comfortable armchairs and other necessities to create a set for its long- and short-form digital filming initiatives that will make history come alive.

**\$2,500**

### **Holocaust Museum Trip**

UConn Hillel

Students would like to visit the Museum of Jewish Heritage/A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York City for a guided tour of exhibit, The Holocaust: What Hate Can Do. Funding would support museum tickets and bus transportation.

**\$3,000**

For more information, please contact Michael Elfenbaum, Vice President of Community Engagement, [melfenbaum@jcfhartford.org](mailto:melfenbaum@jcfhartford.org), (860) 727- 6187.